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CHURCHILL FARMS NURSERY

Phone
WALNUT
3458

Westwego, Louisiana

U. S. Department of Agriculture

NURSERYMEN
LANDSCAPE
DESIGNERS

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AZALEA AND CAMELLIA CULTURE

There are more than 150 different botanical species of Azaleas (*Rhododendron*) in cultivation in North America, and some of these species have almost a hundred horticultural varieties apiece. Out of these thousands of varieties many of the most beautiful may be grown in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast. A few are deciduous azaleas such as the "Wild Honeysuckle", *Rhododendron canescens*, and the Florida Yellow Azalea, *Rhododendron austrinum*. But the most popular azaleas are the evergreen ones, the larger growing ones of which may be loosely classed as indica azaleas and the more dwarf ones as Japanese or Kurume azaleas.

Indica azaleas are not only specimen plants as many people would have us believe, but are one of our finest evergreen shrubs for general use. They may be almost always interchanged with wax ligustrum, pittosporum and viburnum. They have the advantage over those plants in that they have most attractive flowers for several months in the winter and spring that they do not quickly outgrow their situation. Similarly, the dwarf azaleas may be a colorful replacement for the boxwood or euonymus hedge; they may be also used in rock gardens and low borders.

Azaleas are not particular as to exposure; they grow a bit more quickly in the shade, and bloom a bit more profusely in full sun; partial shade seems to be best. But the soil requirements of azaleas are very definite. They must have a light, acid soil, preferably high in humus. Yellow pot sand may be worked into the soil to loosen it; white sand may contain salt and river sand is alkaline so should not be used. Any lime or mortar that may be in the soil should be removed and if the soil is alkaline (all New Orleans river sand fill is alkaline) half a pound of ground aluminum sulfate should be worked into the soil being prepared for each azalea plant up to 2 feet high. Leaf mold or peat moss worked into the soil at this same time adds humus and helps the aluminum sulfate to reduce the alkalinity of the soil. A fertilizer high in organic matter such as cottonseed meal or cow manure is good for azaleas.

Azaleas should be planted quite shallow and given a good mulch of oak leaves or peat moss. The weeds should be kept pulled out from around the plants, but azaleas do not stand cultivation. Watering speeds the growth of azaleas, but it should be withheld after October 1; if the plants are kept in soft growth they do not set buds so well for the next spring and are more liable to frost damage.

Azaleas are quite resistant to insects and diseases, the only serious pest being the red spider which may be controlled by syringing the plant with a strong stream of water or by the use of spray material such as "Derrisol" or "Selocide".

Azaleas are sold by spread, not by height. These prices are for choice, well branched plants furnished with a generous ball of earth. Some varieties of azaleas grow more quickly than others. The descriptive list of varieties is followed by 5 sets of prices; the number in parentheses after the name of the variety refers to its price group.

Indica, or Large Growing Varieties

Brilliant (2) Deep crimson, small leaves, blooms midseason.
Brick Dust (2) Brick red, very late.
Cavendish (Lady Edith) (3) Variegated pink on white, suffused salmon, low compact grower, mid season.
Cleomona (3) Shell pink, early profuse bloomer; upright growth.
Criterion (3) Rich pink, darker center, edges white; late.
Duc De Rohan (2) Salmon, early, compact grower.
Fielder's White (3) Best of the whites; early bloomer, strong grower.
Formosa (1) Purplish pink, strong grower, very popular.
Georges Franc (3) Flame pink, carmine spot in throat, early, enormous flower.
Glory of Sunninghill (3) Orange-scarlet, late, compact grower.
Harry Veltchii (3) Clear pink, petals rounded at the center, grower.
Iveryana (3) Pink stripes on pure white, large flower, late.
Moss Point Late Salmon (3) Salmon; last of azaleas to bloom; flowers very large with rounded waved petals.
Phoenicia (1) Purplish pink with a little more purple than Formosa; strong grower.
Pres. Clay (3) Orange-red with purplish marks in throat; upright grower.

Pride of Dorking (2) Deepest red of all indica azaleas, late.
Pride of Mobile (2) Light watermelon pink, upright grower.
Prince of Orange (2) Deep orange-red, slow grower, late.
Rosea Magnifica (3) White, rose throat, upright grower, hairy leaves.
Rosedown (1) Early light lavender; delicate shade; does not clash with other colors.
Wm. Bull (3) Orange-red, double, mid season, upright grower.

Dwarf, or Japanese and Kurume Varieties

Apple Blossom (5) Apple blossom pink, *H.
Benigiri (5) Bright red.
Bridesmaid (5) Glowing salmon.
Christmas Cheer (4) Christmas red, very slow grower, *H.
Coral Bells (5) Coral pink shading deeper to center, slow grower, *H.
Flame (4) Brilliant madder red suffused copper.
Hexe (5) Firey red, large flower compact grower.
Hinodegiri (1) Bright scarlet, slow compact grower.
Macrantha (4) Clear pink double flowers open like a rose bud.
Macrostemon (4) Salmon pink, large flower, compact grower.
Orange Beauty (5) Orange-pink, large flowers.
Orchid Queen (5) Light lavender bleaching to white at center, *H.
Peach Blow (5) Pale salmon pink.
Pink Pearl (4) Salmon-rose shading lighter to center, *H.
Salmon Beauty (5) Salmon pink, large flowers, *H.
Snow (5) Pure white, large flowers.
Yayegiri (5) Salmon-red, good grower, *H.
*H: Hose-in-hose or semi-double.

PRICES INDICA VARIETIES

	Gr. One	Gr. Two	Gr. Three
6-8 in.	\$.50	\$.75	\$1.00
8-12 in.	.75	1.00	1.50
12-15 in.	1.00	1.25	2.00
15-18 in.	1.25	1.50	2.50
18-24 in.	1.75	2.25	

PRICES DWARF VARIETIES

	Gr. Four	Gr. Five
4-6 in.	\$.50	\$.75
6-8 in.	.75	1.00
8-10 in.	1.00	1.25
10-12 in.	1.25	1.50
12-15 in.	1.75	1.50

Peat Moss subject to market fluctuation.

Leaf mold \$.50 per grain sack.

Aluminum sulfate \$.50 per pound.

Camellias

Camellia Japonica. Camellias want about the same conditions of soil and exposure as azaleas do. Their perfectly shaped waxy flowers in the late winter are among the most beautiful that grow.

Double white, Double red, Pink and white, Variegated:
 6-8 in. ----- \$1.00
 8-10 in. ----- 1.25
 10-12 in. ----- 1.50
 12-15 in. ----- 2.00

Camellia Sasanqua has single white flowers in the late fall. Its leaves are small and glossy. This plant makes an excellent background for azaleas.

18-30 in. ----- 1.50
 30-36 in. ----- 2.00
 3-4 ft. ----- 2.75

Camellia Thea is a rather slow growing bushy evergreen shrub with dull green leaves and small white flowers in fall. Tea plant.

12-15 in. ----- \$1.00
 15-18 in. ----- 1.50
 18-24 in. ----- 2.50

